

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Many chemical and pharmaceutical compositions are known to produce antinociceptive effects that are helpful in relieving pain and inflammation. Both opioids and local anesthetics serve an important function in providing peripheral pain relief. Topical administration of pain-relieving drugs to the periphery offers important advantages over systemic or local, non-topical administration. The present invention provides topical pharmaceutical compositions, formulated with at least one local anesthetic and at least one opioid analgesic in a topical excipient. The present invention also provides methods for relieving pain in a subject through topical administration of the pharmaceutical composition in an amount and a duration sufficient to synergistically potentiate an antinociceptive response. Synergistic potentiation of analgesia through topical administration of a local anesthetic/opioid pharmaceutical composition provides a new and improved approach to peripheral pain management.